



Legislative Bulletin.....June 22, 2005

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H.R. 2985 — Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY06

H.R. 2985, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY06, is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Wednesday, June 22, subject to a structured rule (H.Res. 334). The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Below are the summaries of amendments that may be offered to the bill. Note: summaries are based on RSC staff's review of actual amendment text. For a summary of the underlying bill, see a separate RSC document released earlier in the week.

Baird (D-WA) #5: Strikes Title III of the bill, relating to Continuity in Representation. The language in Title III is essentially identical to the Continuity in Representation Act (H.R. 841) which passed the House on March 3, 2005 by a vote of 329-68. The language in Title III would require that states hold special elections to fill vacancies in the U.S. House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances.

The RSC Legislative Bulletin for the Continuity in Representation Act can be found at: <http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/LB%2003-03-05--continuity%20in%20representation.pdf>
The one change in the language attached to the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill involves the section requiring that, in "extraordinary circumstances," the executive authority of any state which has a vacancy for the House of Representatives issue a writ of election to fill such vacancy by special election within 49 days (H.R. 841 said within 45 days) of the U.S. House Speaker's announcement of the vacancy.

Davis, Jo Ann (R-VA) #4: Strikes Section 1002, which states "that the United States Capitol Police may not operate a mounted horse unit during fiscal year 2006 or any succeeding fiscal year" and requires the transfer of the current horses and equipment to the U.S. Park Police. Thus, the Davis amendment would allow the mounted horse unit to continue under the U.S. Capitol Police, which according to the U.S. Capitol Police Chief Gainer costs approximately \$160,000 for FY2006. According to the sponsor, "Chief Gainer believes the Mounted Unit to be an inexpensive, and effective resource in guarding the Capitol against potential threats, as well as an important part of improving community relations."

Flake (R-AZ)/Blumenauer (D-OR) #10: Would decrease GPO Congressional Printing and Binding budget by \$5.4 million (from \$88,090,000 to 83,090,000). In effect, this amendment would reduce the "Congressional Record program" by \$5.4 million, from \$21.752 million to

\$16.352 million. The sponsor intends to address the excess number of copies of the Congressional Record that are printed (i.e. - reducing the number of copies printed daily from 6,000 to 1,000).

GPO prints approximately 6,000 copies of the Congressional Record daily when Congress is in session. The FY06 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill appropriates approximately \$22 million for GPO to compile, print and distribute the Congressional Record. The overall Congressional Printing and Binding funding level for FY06 is \$88.090 million, level funded from FY05.

McCaul (R-TX) #9: Would decrease the GPO Congressional Printing and Binding funds by \$2 million (\$88,090,000 to \$86,090,000), and increase the Capitol Police general expenses funds (for security equipment, weapons, etc.) by \$2 million (from \$29,345,000 to \$31,345,000). The sponsor intends to address the excess and unsolicited copies of bills, resolutions and amendments that GPO prints and distributes to each sponsor and original co-sponsor, and direct GPO to trim these printing costs from \$5.4 million to \$3.4 million.

In the 108th Congress: 5,431 bills, 875 resolutions, 115 joint resolutions, and 532 concurrent resolutions were introduced in the House, for a total of 6,953. According to GPO, three copies each of every introduced text are printed and delivered to each sponsor and original co-sponsor. Calculating just the three copies for the sponsor, GPO distributed at least 20,859 copies in the 108th Congress -- this does not include the copies printed and distributed to original co-sponsors, which multiplies the number of copies exponentially. The FY06 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill appropriates approximately \$5.4 million for “the printing of bills, resolutions and amendments.”

Hefley #1 (R-CO): The amendment states that amounts appropriated in the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill that are “not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law” are reduced by 1%. In other words, the amendment cuts all non-mandatory spending in the bill by 1%.

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